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A HOLIDAY MESSAGE TO OUR YOUNG FIGHTING MEN

(Contributed by GEORGE ADE to the National Security League's campaign of Patriotism Through Education.)

We must win the big war or else revise all moral codes, rewrite all proverbs and adopt a brand new set of rules to govern conduct.

We have accepted certain time-honored adages as self evident truths.

We found them in our early copy-books and we grew up on them and repeated them so often that, naturally, we came to think that they could be relied upon.

Then Germany came along with an intensely modern variety of Ethics bearing the label of Kultur.

The new medicine is not taken internally or rubbed on as a liniment but you have it shot into you by a large gun.

Unless we refuse to take the treatment, everything that we ever believed in will be overruled, discarded and thrown into the alley.

If Germany is not licked to a standstill, we might as well begin to memorize and humbly accept the following:

Dishonesty is the best policy.

Be as mean as a skunk and you will be happy.

Blessed are the child-murderers, for they shall inherit the earth.

Be sure you are right handy with fire-arms, then go ahead.

An evil reputation is better than riches.

Truth crushed to earth will not rise again if the crushing is done in a superior and efficient manner.

Be virtuous and you will be miserable.

Thrice armed is he who goes around picking quarrels.

Might makes right.

Hell on earth and hatred for all men.

Do unto others as you suspect that they might do unto you if they ever got to be as disreputable as you are.

God helps the man who helps himself to his neighbor's house and his fields and his unprotected women.

Those don't sound right, do they?

The old ones that we learned first of all are not yet out of date. Suppose we don't revise them.

George Ade

